



JUDICIAL SUMMIT ON MENTAL HEALTH

WESTIN MEMORIAL CITY, HOUSTON, TX
OCTOBER 22–23, 2018



JUDICIAL SUMMIT ON MENTAL HEALTH

SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS CHILDREN'S COMMISSION



The Supreme Court established the Children's Commission in 2007 with the overall goal of improving the child welfare system by increasing public awareness of challenges facing children and families involved in the child welfare system and bringing attention to this important issue through judicial leadership, reforming judicial practice, and informing policy affecting child welfare. The Children's Commission is a leading collaborative partner in most every aspect of child welfare reform in Texas.

The State of Texas is the legal parent to some 30,000 children because of allegations of abuse or neglect. Courts play a critical role in determining their future because once lawsuits alleging abuse or neglect are filed, courts become the ultimate arbiter of what happens to these children. No child enters or leaves foster care without a court order. A judge decides where the child will live, with whom, and for how long. Every day, Texas courts decide whether a child goes home or to a relative, visits a sibling, or becomes legally free for adoption. Too often, Texas courts lack the resources necessary to make good decisions.

TEXAS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH



On January 11, 2018, the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals held a historic joint hearing to gather input on the need for and the priorities of a statewide judicial commission on mental health. State and tribal judges, law enforcement, veterans, juvenile services experts, psychologists, psychiatrists, and persons with lived experience with these systems, provided valuable insight at the hearing and voiced unqualified support for the creation of a statewide judicial commission.

The Judicial Commission on Mental Health (JCMH) was created by a joint order of the two Courts on February 13, 2018 to develop, implement, and coordinate policy initiatives designed to improve the courts' interaction with—and the administration of justice for—children, adults, and families with mental health needs. On April 11th, the two Courts issued the Order Appointing Judicial Commission on Mental Health.

JUDICIAL SUMMIT ON MENTAL HEALTH

DETAILED AGENDA

CLE and CEU Hours Provided: 10.5 Total Hours

DAY 1 – MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

Breakfast on your own

PLENARY, Wisteria Ballroom

- 7:30am–8:30am **REGISTRATION**
- 8:30am–9:00am **Welcome**
Chief Justice Nathan Hecht, Supreme Court of Texas
Justice Eva Guzman, Supreme Court of Texas
Justice Jeff Brown, Supreme Court of Texas
Judge Barbara Hervey, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
Justice Bill Boyce, Fourteenth Court of Appeals
- 9:00am–10:00am **Mental Health and Intellectual and Development Disability (IDD) Literacy**
Dr. Carol Nati, MHMR of Tarrant County, Pecan Valley Centers, and Helen Farabee Centers
Dr. Carol Nati will lay a foundation for the Summit by defining mental illness and IDD, describing common mental illnesses, reviewing adverse childhood experiences, and discussing how to interact with individuals with mental illness or IDD.
- 10:00am–10:15am **MORNING BREAK**
- 10:15am–11:00am **Creating Integrated Adult and Children’s Mental Health Systems**
Dr. Andrew Keller, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI)
In collaboration with national consulting firms and mental health professionals across the state, MMHPI revealed three populations in critical need of improvements to mental health care in Texas: veterans, children, and those in our criminal justice system. In this presentation, Dr. Keller will discuss the commonalities in these populations and explore opportunities to create more proactive, integrated systems.
- 11:00am–11:45am **Changing Lives Through Specialty Courts and Dockets**
Judge Ruben Reyes, 72nd District Court
Specialty courts and dockets improve outcomes for those who have involvement in our courts by combining evidence-based practices for treatment and accountability. This presentation will offer ideas for implementing a specialty court, developing standards of practice, and sharing resources to build on successes.
- 11:45am–12:00pm **MORNING BREAK**



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12:00pm–1:00pm **Lunch Program Sponsored by the Hogg Foundation, All Attendees Invited**
Art Acevedo, Houston Chief of Police

DAY 1 BREAKOUT SESSIONS – MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

Adult Track, Wisteria Ballroom

1:00pm–2:00pm **Information Sharing in Criminal Justice/Mental Health Collaborations: Working with Privacy Laws**

John Petril, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Diversion of people with mental illnesses from justice systems requires cooperation across judicial, correctional, and health systems. A major obstacle to such cooperation is confusion over confidentiality laws such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). This presentation will provide a framework for resolving confidentiality questions, addressing specific issues that arise in the context of the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM).

2:00pm–2:15pm **AFTERNOON BREAK**

2:15pm–4:45pm **Best Practices and Barriers in Early-Intercept Jail Diversion**

Judge Brent Carr (Moderator), Tarrant County Criminal Court No. 9

Judge Nelda Cacciotti, Tarrant County

Judge Camile DuBose, Uvalde County

Alyse Ferguson, Collin County MHMC

Dr. Courtney Harvey, HHSC

Judge Dave Jahn, Denton County

Adrienne Kennedy, NAMI

Beth Lawson, StarCare Specialty Health System

Major Mike Lee, Harris County Sheriff's Dept

Beth Mitchell, Disability Rights TX

Judge Roxanne Nelson, Burnet County

Denise Oncken, Harris County District Attorney's Office

Judge Polly Spencer, Bexar County

Steve Wohleb, Texas Hospital Association

Judge Brent Carr will lead a panel of experts in a discussion of best practices and barriers they have encountered throughout the SIM. This session will provide actionable information to help individuals with mental health concerns and IDD in courtrooms and communities.

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CLE and CEU Hours Provided: 10.5 Total Hours

4:45pm–5:45pm **Networking Hour, Sponsored by Collin County
Criminal Defense Lawyer’s Association**

Dinner on your own

DAY 1 BREAKOUT SESSIONS – MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

Children & Youth Track, Hibiscus Ballroom

1:00pm–1:45pm **Becoming Trauma-Informed:
Updates from DFPS and TJJD**
Kristene Blackstone, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Seth Christensen, Texas Juvenile Justice Department
The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department will provide updates on each agency’s efforts to integrate the principles of trauma-informed care into each agency’s operations, programming, and culture.

1:45pm–2:45pm **Are the Kids Alright? Preventing Youth Suicide**
Janet Pozmantier, Center for School Behavioral Health at Mental Health America of Greater Houston
Betsy Blanks, Center for School Behavioral Health at Mental Health America of Greater Houston
If it seems like more young people are taking their lives these days, it’s true - the kids are not alright. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death for youth and young adults ages 10-34. In Texas, one out of every eight high school students attempted suicide in 2017. At this interactive session, you will gain valuable information to identify potential risks and warning signs for suicide and develop skills to help young people save their lives.

2:45pm–3:00pm **AFTERNOON BREAK**

3:00pm–3:45pm **Engaging Youth Voice in Our Daily Work**
Christine Gendron (Moderator), Texas Network of Youth Services
Charles Batiste, University of Houston
Justin Hayward, Texas Network of Youth Services: Young Adult Leadership Council
Dr. Sarah Narendorf, University of Houston
Dustin Rynders, Disability Rights Texas
The saying “Nothing About Us Without Us” is often used by child welfare advocates to emphasize the importance of including youth with lived experience in decisions that impact their lives. This panel will discuss how to incorporate youth voice into organizational policy, day-to-day operations, and interaction with young people.



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3:45pm–4:00pm **AFTERNOON BREAK**

4:00pm–4:45pm **Ensuring Racial Equity in Serving Children and Youth**

Sheila Craig, Texas Health and Human Services Commission

A child-serving system cannot be truly trauma-informed without addressing the disproportionality and disparities felt by the children, youth, and families it serves. This session will encourage attendees to confront complex challenges and identify opportunities to achieve racial equity.

4:45pm–5:45pm **Networking Hour, Sponsored by Collin County
Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association**

Dinner on your own

DAY 2 BREAKOUT SESSIONS – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Breakfast on your own

Adult Track, Wisteria Ballroom

8:30am–9:00am **Improving the Courts' Response to People with
Mental Illness or IDD**

Kristi Taylor, Judicial Commission on Mental Health

As leaders of their courts and communities, judges are well-positioned to successfully convene and engage stakeholders and solve multi-faceted problems. In this session, participants will receive practical tools for convening and developing local protocols focused on working with justice-system involved individuals with mental health or IDD needs.

Adult Track, Regional Breakout Rooms

9:00am–9:15am **Break to Regional Rooms**

9:15am–11:00am **Regional Breakouts for Improving the Courts'
Response to People with Mental Illness or IDD**

11:00am–11:15am **Transition back to Wisteria Ballroom**

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Adult Track, Wisteria Ballroom

- 11:15am–12:30pm **Sharing Ideas and Resources**
12:30pm **Summit Concludes**

Children & Youth Track, Hibiscus Ballroom

- 8:30am–12:30pm **Convening of the Statewide Collaborative on Trauma-Informed Care**
Judge Darlene Byrne, 126th District Court
Katy Bourgeois, Mission Capital
Renee Encinias, Hope Rising Ministries
Christine Gendron, Texas Network of Youth Services
Andy Homer, Texas CASA
The Statewide Collaborative on Trauma-Informed Care (SCTIC) aims to elevate trauma-informed policy in the Texas child welfare system by creating a statewide strategy to support system reform, organizational leadership, cross-systems collaboration, and data-informed initiatives with sustainable funding. The SCTIC will convene for an update on the progress of the four workgroups and next steps for the collaborative. All Summit participants are welcome to attend.
- 12:30pm **Summit Concludes**



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SPEAKER BIOS

Chief Art Acevedo

Houston Police Department

Art Acevedo was sworn-in as Chief of the Houston Police Department (HPD) on November 30, 2016. Chief Acevedo leads a department of 5,200 sworn law enforcement officers and 1,200 civilian support personnel with an annual general fund budget of \$825 million in the fourth largest city in the United States. A proponent of community policing, Chief Acevedo refers to the proven practice as “Relational Policing,” an opportunity to forge a relationship with each citizen an officer comes in contact with. The first Hispanic to lead the HPD, Chief Acevedo brings a unique understanding to the concerns of the diverse communities in the City of Houston. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of La Verne in California. Chief Acevedo began his law enforcement career in 1986 as field patrol officer in East Los Angeles with the California Highway Patrol. He rose through the ranks and was named Chief of the California Highway Patrol in 2005. He most recently served nine years as Chief of the Austin Police Department. Chief Acevedo holds various leadership positions with the Major Cities Chiefs Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He is married to Tanya Born Acevedo and is the father of Melissa, Matthew, and Jake.

Charles Batiste

Research Assistant, University of Houston

Charles Batiste is a research assistant working for Dr. Narendorf on her project, the Homeless Youth Health Initiative. In this work, Mr. Batiste works as a peer health navigator and supports qualitative data analysis and survey creation. Mr. Batiste was born and raised in Houston, Texas, and he grew up a part of the CPS system from age 12 until he aged out at 18. He has experience with the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems and spent time in residential treatment centers as a teen. Mr. Batiste is currently a student at Houston Community College and is interested in communications. He is also a member of the Texas Network of Youth Services Young Adult Leadership Council where he is assisting in facilitating the Statewide Workgroup on Youth Homelessness.

Kristene Blackstone

Associate Commissioner, Child Protective Services

Kristene Blackstone has been Associate Commissioner for Child Protective Services (CPS) in Texas since May 1, 2016, overseeing one of the largest CPS programs in the nation with more than 8,000 employees statewide during a period of significant change. She was previously the Deputy Director for Field Operations for the Texas Office of the Attorney General’s Child Support Division, where she oversaw the daily operations of the Field Operations Division. During this time, the Child Support Division collected record amounts of child support and was regularly rated one of the most efficient programs in the country. Assoc. Commissioner Blackstone has over 26 years of public service experience working with children and families. She has 18 years of experience with Child Protective Services, where she started out serving as a caseworker. She held positions as a CPS Supervisor, Program Director, and Regional Program Administrator. She received her bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of North Texas and a master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin.

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SPEAKER BIOS

Betsy Blanks

Associate Director, Center for School Behavioral Health at MHA of Greater Houston

Betsy Blanks is the Associate Director of the Center for School Behavioral Health at Mental Health America (MHA) of Greater Houston. In this role, she plans and executes learning opportunities for educators, advocates, and child-serving professionals to improve the prevention, early-identification, and treatment of behavioral health issues in children. Upon graduating from Rice University with degrees in English and Policy Studies, she taught 7th grade reading at KIPP Reach College Preparatory in Oklahoma City as a Teach for America Corps Member. She came to MHA from the World Affairs Council of Greater Houston, where she spent two years as the Senior Education Manager. She is a Founding Board Member of Bloom Academy, a K-5 charter school in the Sunnyside neighborhood of Houston set to open for the 2019-2020 academic year. Ms. Blanks is a proud Big Sister for Big Brothers Big Sisters, a Rice University Annual Fund and Young Alumni Host Committee volunteer, and a certified instructor for Youth Mental Health First Aid. She is currently pursuing an MSW from the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work.

Katy Bourgeois

Director of Aligned Impact, Mission Capital

Katy Bourgeois is the Director of Aligned Impact at Mission Capital, where her focus is helping organizations increase their impact and achieve system change through effective collaboration across sector lines. At Mission Capital, Ms. Bourgeois has worked with the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at TCU, the Travis County Courts, Child Protective Services, and over 50 partner organizations to develop and grow the Travis County Collaborative for Children – a data-driven, cross-sector effort to bring healing and permanency to children in foster care in Central Texas. Prior to joining Mission Capital, Ms. Bourgeois conducted program evaluations for the Legislative Budget Board, provided fiscal policy analysis to the Governor of Texas, and managed activities related to federal fund development and strategic planning for DFPS. Ms. Bourgeois worked with DADS to oversee a study of services to adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Texas and review recommendations to address gaps in services, and with HHSC to design a method for distributing \$7.2 million to support pilot programs targeted at providing home visitation services to at-risk infants and children. Ms. Bourgeois received a Master of Social Work from The University of Texas and a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Holyoke College.

Justice Jeff Brown

Supreme Court of Texas

Justice Jeff Brown has been a judge for 15 years, serving at all three levels of the Texas judiciary. He has served on the Supreme Court of Texas since his appointment by Gov. Rick Perry in 2013. Before reaching the high court, Justice Brown served six years as a trial judge and six years as an appellate justice. Justice Brown received a B.A. in English from the University of Texas at Austin and his law degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Houston. He serves on the advisory board of LifeHouse, a Christian maternity home for unwed expectant mothers, and on the board of the Texas Historical Foundation. In recognition of his professional accomplishments and community service, the Texas Young Lawyers Association named Justice Brown Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas in 2006, and the Texas Jaycees named him one of Five Outstanding Young Texans in 2008. In 2016, Justice Brown was also presented the Rosewood Gavel Award by St. Mary's University School of Law. Justice Brown serves as co-chair of the Judicial Commission on Mental Health.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Judge Darlene Byrne

126th District Court

The Honorable Darlene Byrne has served as presiding judge of the 126th Judicial District Court in Travis County since January 2001. Prior to her election in 2000, Judge Byrne practiced for thirteen years in the areas of employment, commercial, and governmental entity litigation. She is a Commissioner on the Texas Children's Commission. Judge Byrne is a past President of the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges and a past Judge of the Year of National CASA, Texas CASA, and CASA of Travis County. She is a past recipient of the Seedling Foundation Fab Five Award. She is currently on the Judicial Council for National CASA, is an Advisory Council member for TexProtects, Partnerships for Children and the Seedling Foundation, is the Chair of the Texas Statewide Collaborative for Trauma Informed Care, and on the Editorial Review Board for NCJFCJ's Juvenile and Family Court Journal. Judge Byrne is a member of the Travis County Juvenile Justice Board, a founding team member of the Travis County Family Drug Treatment Court and the Travis County Model Court of Children, Youth, and Families. She has served on many boards and committees related to law and child welfare as well as community organizations.

Judge Brent Carr

Tarrant County Criminal Court No. 9

Judge Brent Carr has been the Presiding Judge of the Tarrant County Mental Health Court since 2003, the Presiding Judge of the Tarrant County Veterans Treatment Court since 2010, the Presiding Judge of the Tarrant County RISE Program (sex trafficked women) since 2011, and the Supervising Judge of the Tarrant County Enhanced Mental Health Services Docket since 2015. Judge Carr has served as consultant for numerous specialty courts around the state; was the inaugural chair of Tarrant County Veterans Coalition; serves on local nonprofit mental health and substance abuse agencies (past chair); current service on the HUD required board of the local homeless coalition; current service on the Governor's Specialty Court Advisory Council; and current service as Chair, Office of Court Administration Advisory Council on specialty courts; and frequent lecturer at local, state and national trainings on mental health related topics.

Seth W. Christensen

Director of Stakeholder Relations, Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Seth Christensen serves as the Director of Stakeholder Relations for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), where he coordinates the agency's efforts to gain meaningful input from stakeholders with significant interests in the juvenile justice system, including the Office of the Governor, members of the State Legislature, other state agencies, juvenile probation chiefs, and advocacy and policy groups. Prior to joining TJJD in April of 2018, Mr. Christensen served as a Policy Advisor in the office of Governor Greg Abbott, where he assisted the governor in formulating policy positions and implementing state policy on a variety of vital issues including juvenile justice, public safety/homeland security, emergency management, and the judiciary. As the governor's liaison to the Texas Division of Emergency Management, he was particularly involved in helping coordinate the response and recovery efforts for seven presidentially declared disasters, including historic Hurricane Harvey. A native of Brenham, Texas, Mr. Christensen received his Juris Doctor from South Texas College of Law and his bachelor's degree in political science from Texas A&M University.

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SPEAKER BIOS

Sheila Craig

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Sheila Craig has worked in the Health and Human Services, Social Services, and Child Welfare field for 28 years providing services to children, families, and communities in Louisiana and Texas. Ms. Craig received her master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. She currently serves as an Advisory Board member with the Institute for Urban Policy Research and Analysis at the University of Texas at Austin; Commissioner on the Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families; and is a committee member with the Strategic Health Alliance Program at the Texas Center for Disability Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Ms. Craig is also a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators; the City of Austin's Equity Action Team; the American Counseling Association; and Executive Women in Texas Government. She is an influential leader, a motivational speaker, and presenter at the local, state, national, and international levels. Ms. Craig has received numerous honors for her work and dedication to children, families, and vulnerable populations.

Renee Encinias

Program Director/Licensed Administrator, Hope Rising Ministries

Renee Encinias has been in the Child Welfare field in Texas for over twenty years working directly with children in the residential treatment setting as well as foster homes and moving her way up to administrative roles that include leading others in the journey to help improve the lives of children from hard places. During the last ten years of that time, Ms. Encinias has been involved with Trauma-Informed Care through many different avenues including becoming a Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Practitioner, acting as Co-Chair of the Trauma-Informed Care Consortium of Central Texas as well as collaborating in several other initiatives. Over the past two years, she has worked alongside the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission to work towards a more Trauma-Informed Texas. Ms. Encinias is honored to be a part of this massive undertaking and is excited to see the continued changes to provide the best possible care for our children.

Christine Gendron

Executive Director, Texas Network of Youth Services

Christine Gendron has served as executive director of TNOYS since 2012, and has been involved with the organization since 2008. In her role at TNOYS, she serves as a resource for policymakers, funders, service providers, and others looking to make informed investments to strengthen services for youth and young adults. Prior to becoming executive director of TNOYS, Ms. Gendron worked as a Senior Research Associate at the LBJ School's Center for Health and Social Policy, where she managed evaluations of innovative public-sector initiatives to promote the well-being of Texas children and families. She has led an array of consulting projects for youth service agencies and authored numerous publications relevant to youth services and child well-being. Ms. Gendron received her master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and her bachelor's degree in History and Women's Studies from Texas A&M University. She is actively involved in the community, including by serving on the board of a small family foundation and on the Alumni Board for the LBJ School of Public Affairs.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Justice Eva Guzman

Supreme Court of Texas

Justice Eva Guzman has served at three levels of the Texas judiciary. In 2009 she was appointed to serve on the Supreme Court of Texas by Governor Rick Perry. She was elected to a full term in November 2010, when she became the first Hispanic woman elected to statewide office in Texas. Before her appointment, Justice Guzman served for almost a decade on the Houston-based Fourteenth Court of Appeals. She began her judicial service on the 309th District Court in Harris County, after an appointment by then-Governor George W. Bush. Justice Guzman is the Court's liaison to the Commission on Judicial Conduct, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation and the Texas Access to Justice Commission, responsible for oversight and funding of the state's legal assistance programs for the poor. She also is Chair of the Supreme Court's Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families. Her devotion to the law and her community has been recognized by national, state, and local organizations. Before taking the bench, Justice Guzman enjoyed a successful 10-year career as an attorney in Houston. She holds a B.B.A. from the University of Houston, a law degree from South Texas College, and an LL.M. from Duke University School of Law.

Justin Hayward

YALC Member, Texas Network of Youth Services

Justin Hayward is a 23 year old young adult advocate, whose friends call him Prince. His positive and negative experiences in CPS and being homeless have made him into the man he is today. Currently, Mr. Hayward is an active leader in the Houston area and a member of three formal youth advocacy boards including TNOYS Young Adult Leadership Council, National Youth Forum on Homelessness, and the Harris County Youth Collective. He has been blessed to overcome the statistics of being an African American male in and out of various systems as a youth and is a champion for change on all levels for the next generation.

Chief Justice Nathan Hecht

Supreme Court of Texas

Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht is the 27th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas. He has been elected to the Court six times, first in 1988 as a Justice, and most recently in 2014 as Chief Justice. He is the longest serving Member of the Court in Texas history and the senior Texas appellate judge in active service. He oversees revisions to the rules of administration, practice, and procedure in Texas courts, and is active in the Court's efforts to assure that Texans living below the poverty level, as well as others with limited means, have access to basic civil legal services. Chief Justice Hecht was appointed to the district court in 1981 and was elected to the court of appeals in 1986. He holds a B.A. degree with honors in philosophy from Yale University, and a J.D. degree cum laude from the SMU School of Law. He clerked for Judge Roger Robb on the federal D.C. Circuit and was a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve JAG Corps. Chief Justice Hecht is a Life Member of the American Law Institute and a member of Council.

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SPEAKER BIOS

Judge Barbara Hervey

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Judge Barbara Parker Hervey was elected to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in November 2000. Judge Hervey earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1975 from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and her J.D. in 1979 from St. Mary's University School of Law, where she is currently an Adjunct Professor and a past recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Hervey was in private practice for five years with the Law Office of M.M. Pena, Jr. of San Antonio. She was also an Assistant Criminal District Attorney in the appellate section of the Bexar County District Attorney's Office for 16 years. Judge Hervey has been an author and speaker for over 150 lectures and legal seminars, served on the Governor's Ad Hoc Committee to Rewrite the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, supervised continuing legal education training for attorneys in the D.A.'s Office, served as a Faculty Member of the National College of District Attorneys, and co-authored *The Appellate Prosecutor: "Professional Responsibility on Appeal."* She has received various awards and recognitions for her contribution to the legal community. Judge Hervey serves as co-chair of the Judicial Commission on Mental Health.

Andy Homer

Director of Public Affairs, Texas CASA

Andy Homer has served as Director of Public Affairs for Texas CASA since January of 2014. In that capacity he leads Texas CASA's legislative advocacy efforts and works on a variety of public policy issues affecting the child welfare system. His prior experience includes nearly ten years of service as a staff member in the Texas Senate, including as Chief of Staff. He also directed a Special Senate Interim Committee on Welfare Reform and drafted its report to the legislature. Mr. Homer served as Director of Government Relations for over a dozen years for a professional association for active and retired state employees. He has worked extensively on state budget issues, on health and human services policy issues, and has been deeply involved in a number of complex public policy issues. He serves as a member of the Public Private Partnership, which advises DFPS on foster care redesign. He also serves as a volunteer advocate with CASA of Travis County. Mr. Homer has a B.A. from Kenyon College in Ohio, as well as an MBA and a master's degree in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Andrew Keller

President and CEO, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Andy Keller, PhD, is the CEO of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute and a psychologist with more than 20 years of experience in behavioral health policy. He is a recognized leader in health and human services integration, behavioral health financing, and implementation of empirically supported practices for adults and children. Dr. Keller was also a founding partner of TriWest Group, a national behavioral health systems consulting firm focused on human service evaluation, community collaboration, and management. His work has centered on helping local systems implement evidence-based and innovative care as well as helping local and state governments develop the regulatory and financial framework to support them. Prior to forming TriWest, Dr. Keller worked in Colorado at the health plan level with a leading Medicaid HMO and at the provider level with the Mental Health Center of Denver. He has directed and led a range of community-based programs, including assertive community treatment teams, adult and child outpatient clinics, school-based and early childhood programs, and specialty programs for older adults and Latino communities.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Dr. Sarah Narendorf

Associate Professor, University of Houston

Sarah Narendorf, PhD, is an associate professor at the University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work. Her research focuses on the transition to adulthood for young people that have experienced homelessness, involvement with the child welfare and/or juvenile justice system, and mental health challenges. Dr. Narendorf strives to include those who have expertise due to lived experience in all research work. Her work is aimed at building interventions to more effectively support all youth to thrive in adulthood.

Dr. Carol Nati

Medical Director, MHMR of Tarrant County, Pecan Valley Centers, and Helen Farabee Centers

Dr. Carol Nati is Board Certified in Child, Adolescent, & Adult Psychiatry. She received her Medical Degree at Oral Roberts University School of Medicine and attended Baylor College of Medicine for her Psychiatry Residency. She completed a Fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. She returned to Texas and worked at Vernon State Hospital's Maximum-Security Unit as the Chief Psychiatrist for the Competency Program. She later moved to North Texas State Hospital's Wichita Falls campus. Dr. Nati has held several leadership roles in Fort Worth. She was the Medical Director for Behavioral Health at Cook Children's Hospital and the Vice Chair of the Department of Psychiatry both at John Peter Smith Hospital and the Medical School in Fort Worth. She currently is the Medical Director for 3 MHA's in Texas – MHMR of Tarrant County, Pecan Valley Centers, and Helen Farabee Centers. Dr. Nati has been in practice for more than 20 years and remains actively involved in clinical care and teaching.

John Petrila

Vice President of Adult Policy, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

John Petrila is Vice President of Adult Policy for the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. He is an attorney with 40 years of experience in mental health law and policy. Mr. Petrila received his law degree and an advanced degree in mental health law from the University of Virginia School of Law. He has been General Counsel to the New York State Office of Mental Health and was the first Director of Forensic Services in the Missouri Department of Mental Health. Much of his work has focused on analyzing the trajectories, service use and costs associated with people with mental illnesses, and co-morbid mental and physical health issues. This work has been based on the integration of administrative data including Medicaid claims files, statewide arrest data, mental health data, homeless data, and emergency medical transport data. Mr. Petrila is a national expert on data sharing and wrote the chapter on confidentiality for the 1999 Surgeon General's report on mental health. He was also an original member of the Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy Initiative and has worked with multiple counties across the United States on data sharing issues and facilitating sequential intercept mapping. In 2011, Mr. Petrila was named a Fulbright Scholar to the Netherlands and taught and conducted research at Maastricht University.

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SPEAKER BIOS

Janet Pozmantier

Director, Center for School Behavioral Health at MHA of Greater Houston

Janet Pozmantier is a licensed professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, and play therapist. She began her career in primary prevention at Mental Health America of Greater Houston as the first director of WHO - We Help Ourselves (a child abuse prevention program), followed by 20 years at ChildBuilders where she created Parents Under Construction (a nationally recognized, research-based, award-winning program teaching children and youth today the parenting skills they will need in the future). Ms. Pozmantier then traveled throughout the country as an outreach educator for The Dibble Institute (a national non-profit organization dedicated to helping teens learn how to achieve healthy relationships). She co-authored a book on early childhood development (The First Years, DK Publishing, 2001) and was instrumental in establishing Children at Risk, Houston's child advocacy organization. She was named Trainer of the Year by the Texas AEYC and is a recipient of the Unsung Hero Award from Children at Risk and the Distinguished Service Award from ChildBuilders. Currently, Ms. Pozmantier is the Director of the Center for School Behavioral Health at Mental Health America of Greater Houston, where she leads a regional collective impact effort to transform systems change in the prevention, early identification and intervention, and treatment of behavioral health concerns among students. She is also a proud Senior Fellow with American Leadership Forum.

Judge Ruben Reyes

72nd District Court

Judge Ruben Reyes serves as Judge of the 72nd District Court of Lubbock & Crosby Counties. He is a graduate of Yale University and Baylor Law School. In addition to his regular duties and responsibilities, Judge Reyes presides over the Lubbock County Adult Drug Court Program. He is past Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) and Chairman of the Governor's Specialty Courts Advisory Council. Judge Reyes hosts students who participate in mock trials dealing with issues including texting and drunk driving. Prior to becoming Judge of the 72nd District Court, he was in private practice for 16 years. Judge Reyes believes in giving back to the community and serves on various boards of service.

Dustin Rynders

Supervising Attorney, Disability Rights Texas

Dustin Rynders is the Supervising Attorney of the Education Team at Disability Rights Texas. Mr. Rynders supervises a team of attorneys, advocates, and policy specialists throughout Texas. He has represented students with disabilities in education, foster care, and juvenile justice cases. Mr. Rynders led the agency's effort to improve youth voice in services to transition age youth. He teaches special education law at the University of Houston Law Center as an Adjunct Professor.

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

DAY 1 – MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

PLENARY, Wisteria Ballroom

- 7:30am–8:30am Registration Open
- 8:30am–9:00am Welcome
- 9:00am–10:00am Mental Health and Intellectual and Development Disability (IDD) Literacy
- 10:00am–10:15am MORNING BREAK
- 10:15am–11:00am Creating Integrated Adult and Children’s Mental Health Systems
- 11:00am–11:45am Changing Lives Through Specialty Courts and Dockets
- 11:45am–12:00pm MORNING BREAK
- 12:00pm–1:00pm Lunch Program Sponsored by the Hogg Foundation

ADULT TRACK, Wisteria Ballroom

- 1:00pm–2:00pm Information Sharing in Criminal Justice/Mental Health Collaborations: Working with Privacy Laws
- 2:00pm–2:15pm AFTERNOON BREAK
- 2:15pm–4:45pm Best Practices and Barriers in Early-Intercept Jail Diversion
- 4:45pm–5:45pm Networking Hour, Sponsored by Collin County Criminal Defense Lawyer’s Association

CHILDREN & YOUTH TRACK, Hibiscus Ballroom

- 1:00pm–1:45pm Becoming Trauma-Informed: Updates from DFPS and TJJD
- 1:45pm–2:45pm Are the Kids Alright? Preventing Youth Suicide
- 2:45pm–3:00pm AFTERNOON BREAK
- 3:00pm–3:45pm Engaging Youth Voice in Our Daily Work
- 3:45pm–4:00pm AFTERNOON BREAK
- 4:00pm–4:45pm Ensuring Racial Equity in Serving Children and Youth
- 4:45pm–5:45pm Networking Hour, Sponsored by Collin County Criminal Defense Lawyer’s Association

DAY 2 - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

ADULT TRACK, Wisteria Ballroom & Regional Breakout Rooms

- 8:30am–9:00am Improving the Courts’ Response to People with Mental Illness or IDD
- 9:00am–9:15am Break to regional rooms
- 9:15am–11:00am Regional Breakouts for Improving the Courts’ Response to People with Mental Illness or IDD
- 11:00am–11:15am Transition back to Wisteria Ballroom
- 11:15am–12:30pm Sharing Ideas and Resources

CHILDREN & YOUTH TRACK, Hibiscus Ballroom

- 8:30am–12:30pm Convening of the Statewide Collaborative on Trauma-Informed Care
- 12:30pm Summit Concludes